

Frequently Asked Questions

Non-Traditional Route to Special Education Teacher Certification



What certification exams are required on the non-traditional route to Special Education Certification?

- › Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET)
- › Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination (OPTE)
- › Oklahoma Subject Area Test (OSAT) for Mild/Moderate or Severe/Profound

*These certification exams can be taken at any time, but must be completed within the three year time frame as part of the requirements for receiving a standard certification.

How does a person participating in the non-traditional route become highly qualified (HQ)?

To be highly qualified at the secondary level, a Special Education Teacher must hold at least a provisional certificate, a bachelor's degree, successfully complete the appropriate competency examinations in each core academic area, and meet the renewal requirements of the non-traditional route each year (renewable 2 times) or obtain a standard certificate through the Non-Traditional Special Education Route.

To be highly qualified in early childhood or elementary education, a Special Education Teacher must obtain a standard certificate, hold a bachelor's degree, successfully complete an accredited teacher preparation program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, and successfully complete the appropriate competency examinations in early childhood or elementary education.

If someone has applied for Alternative Certification can they switch over to the non-traditional route?

Yes. An individual may switch, but in order to receive standard certification an individual must meet all the requirements of the non-traditional route to Special Education Certification.

Do individuals need to be Highly Qualified (HQ)?

If you do not provide instruction in core academic subjects, you do not have to meet the highly qualified teacher requirements. Successful completion of the non-traditional route to Special Education Certification will enable individuals to provide indirect services such as co-teaching, serving in a resource room, or providing supplemental instruction.

Can an individual hold an Alternative Certificate in addition to participating in the non-traditional route?

If an individual has received Alternative Certification they may participate in the non-traditional route. All components of each certification route must be successfully completed.

If someone has a traditional standard certification can they become a Special Education Teacher?

Yes. They can take the mild/moderate or severe/profound certification exam.

Can individuals with a master's degree in Special Education become a Special Education Teacher without participating in the non-traditional route?

Yes. An individual with a master's degree in Special Education only needs to successfully complete the subject area certification exam for mild/moderate or severe/profound in order to become a Special Education Teacher.